AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Original) A method for patching a computer application program including a plurality of executable steps, comprising:

(a)   determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and

(b)   if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

2.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application[[,]] by:

(a)   setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;

(b)   running the steps of the application through the debugger;

(c)   monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; [[and]]

(d)   patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and

(e)   executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

3.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

(a)   determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

(b)   if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the computer application program is compatible.

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4.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 3 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

5.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:

(a)   loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, each breakpoint having a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and

(b)   the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of Claim 5 wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

(a)   calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and

(b)   patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.

7.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for patching a computer application program including a plurality of executable steps, which, when the ~~computer executable~~ computer-executable instructions are executed, comprise:

(a)   determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and

(b)   if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

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8. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7 wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application[[,]] by:

(a) setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;

(b) running the steps of the application through the debugger;

(c) monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; [[and]]

(d) patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and

(e) executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

9. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

(a) determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

(b) if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the computer application program is compatible.

10. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 8 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

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11. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 8 wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:

(a) loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, wherein each breakpoint has a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and

(b) the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

12. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11 wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

(a) calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and

(b) patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.

13. (Previously presented) A computer system for patching a computer application program wherein the computer system is capable of running an application having a plurality of executable steps, the method comprising:

(a) determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and

(b) if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

14. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 13 wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application by:

(a) setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;

(b) running the steps of the application through the debugger;

(c) monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; [[and]]

(d)   patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and

(e)   executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

15.   (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 13 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

(a)   determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

(b)   if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the computer application program is compatible.

16.   (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 15 wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

17.   (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 14 wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:
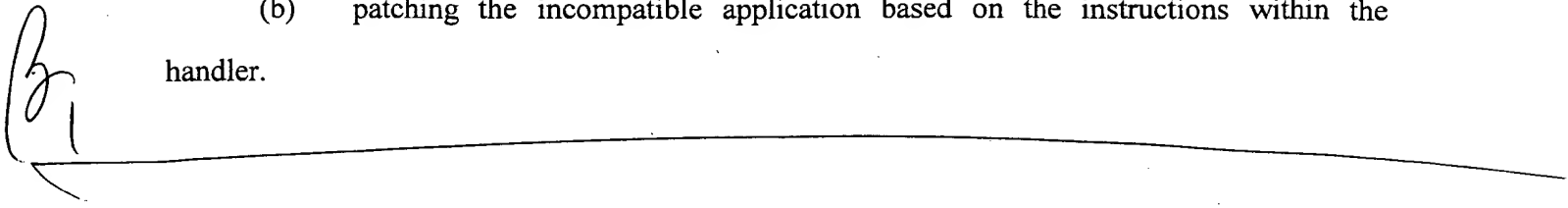
(a)   loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, wherein each breakpoint has a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and

(b)   the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

18.   (Previously presented) The computer system of Claim 17 wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

(a)   calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and

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(b)   patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.

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